



# Makah

## National Fish Hatchery

### Station Facts

- Staffed by 7 full time personnel
- Hatchery operations began in 1981
- Annual budget ~\$800,000
- Produces 2.3 million Fall Chinook, 240,000 coho and 180,000 steelhead smolts for release in the Tsoo-Yess and Wa'atch rivers
- Provides a secure isolation incubation facility supporting the Makah Tribal Hatchery restoration program for ESA-listed Lake Ozette Sockeye
- Hosts local outreach events to connect people with nature

### Contact Information

**Station Manager:** Roger Sorensen

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**Web:**

<http://www.fws.gov/Makahnfh/index.html>

**Directions:**

9 miles past Neah Bay; follow signs.

Hours: 7:30 am - 4:00 pm daily.

Address: 897 Fish Hatchery Road,  
Neah Bay, WA 98357



### Who We Are

The National Fish Hatchery System (NFHS) is comprised of a network of 71 National Fish Hatcheries which propagate imperiled species for restoration and recovery programs, provide emergency refugia for species whose habitat is threatened, provide fish to benefit Tribes, and mitigate for federal water projects.

### How We Help

Makah National Fish Hatchery is both a conservation and a production hatchery, working to conserve the native stocks of Fall Chinook and coho salmon in the Tsoo-Yess River while also producing enough smolts to contribute to area tribal, commercial and sport fisheries. Returning adults are sorted and either spawned or passed upstream depending on stock needs and program goals. Visitors are welcome as we are eager to show off what we do to maintain these important stocks of salmon.

### Tribal Trust Responsibilities

Makah NFH produces smolts for the Tsoo-Yess and Wa'atch watersheds to meet Tribal Trust responsibilities. Fishing is vital to the cultural and economic life of the Makah Tribe. Maintaining these stocks and providing meaningful fisheries is a critical part of our mission.



High school students dissecting returning adults

### Makah NFH Cycle of Life

*Fall:* Adult salmon return, are spawned, then returned to holding, or released upstream. Eggs are taken, fertilized and incubated. Carcasses are sampled for diseases and tags. Yearling coho and steelhead adipose fins are clipped and fish are coded-wire tagged to provide details.

*Winter:* Spawning operations are completed. The eggs eye up and hatch. Buttoned-up fry are moved to the raceways to be fed. Yearling coho and steelhead are growing in preparation of smolting.

*Spring:* Coho and steelhead smolts are released in April; Chinook in late May. Chinook fingerlings' adipose fins are clipped and fish are coded-wire tagged.

*Summer:* Quiet time. Coho and steelhead fingerling care, facility upkeep and maintenance projects are completed.



Aerial view of Makah NFH